

Wild flowers of the Spuyten-Duyvil and Riverdale sections of New York City

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This section of New York City extends along the Hudson River from the Harlem River north to the city line at Yonkers, chiefly on the high ridge that slopes steeply down to the Hudson on the west and to the valley through which Broadway extends on the east. There are many fine old estates here, on parts of which the original vegetation has been little disturbed; also there are small areas waiting to be built upon where native plants and introduced weeds crowd each other. It is of interest to record the more or less showy wild flowers still to be found in this part of the city. Many of these, especially those marked scarce or rare, will undoubtedly soon disappear from this section, others quite as surely will be found here for many years to come.

One beautiful morning late in July we had started on a jaunt with our "wire-haired" puppy when we came upon a rather lovely scene,—a partly shaded marsh in which we glimpsed the varied colors of budding and blooming flowers. As we wandered in through the dew-laden marsh grasses and sedges, tear thumb and jewelweed we found the gold of the yellow and fringed loosestrife, the deep purple of the nightshade or bitter-sweet with clusters of red and green translucent berries on the same vines, the pink of the swamp rose, the modest little blue skullcap, the soft downy green of thoroughwort in bud, the purplish-pink of Joe Pye Weed growing tall and stately, the lovely lilac of a colony of monkey flowers, the rose-purple of swamp milkweed and, in the shaded background, water hemlock spreading its flat clusters of greenish white flowers. As we came away through the ferns and glimpsed the sunny yellow of the star grass and gathered from the hillside the delicate white blossoms of the starry campion on their graceful slender stems, there came to us a deep sense of appreciation of the quiet beauty of this wooded spot so near our home in the city.

From the early spring when we found the wood carpeted with the dainty spring beauty, adder's tongue lily and cut-leaved toothwort, and the hillside brightened with the light gold of the spice bush, we have watched the coming of the wild flow-

ers to the open wood, marsh, thicket, field and roadside near our home. In April and May came the rue anemone, Dutchman's breeches, toothwort or crinkle root, blue palmate and common blue violets, yellow star grass, blue-eyed grass, wild geranium, sweet Cicely, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, bellwort, Canada may flower, Solomon's seal, false spikenard, catbrier and carrion flower, pink lady's slipper, flowering dogwood, and the viburnums. The roadsides and moist places were being brightened by the yellows of buttercups and mustards. In early June the clovers, melilots, bouncing bet, Deptford pink, Virginia dayflower, chicory and flowering raspberry add their varied hues. The lovely moth mullein comes with its fragile canary-yellow or purplish-white blossoms which open at night and are perfect in the early morning. The evenings at this season bring the charm of the snowy white evening lychnis, the night-flowering catchfly, the dainty bladder campion and the fragrant Japanese honeysuckle. During the early summer we find in the open woods tall meadow rue, four-leaved milkweed, dogbane, smooth rose and two pentstemons. Along the roadsides and in the fields the procession now includes blue vetch, common and daisy fleabanes, common St. Johnswort, tall buttercup, black-eyed Susan, Venus looking-glass, blue vervain, yarrow, Queen Ann's lace, common milkweed, butter-and-eggs, several of the mints, velvet leaf or Indian mallow, and the evening primrose. Through the late summer we find in the thickets which border the woods hazy purple masses of tick trefoil, the slender gerardia, the gleaming white of ladies' tresses, and the delicate purplish-pink clusters of meadow beauty or deer grass. Later the golden-rod and asters blend their golds and amethysts with the Joe Pye Weed, thoroughwort, ironweed, white snakeroot, white lettuce, and turtle head into a harmony of color which makes these early Autumn days among the loveliest of the year, and in a few weeks these lovely composites, perhaps at their best, add their hues to the colorings of leaves and berries of the trees and vines, to give us in the Fall sunshine the last glowing picture of our wild flowers. Then, still retaining some of their softened color, they so gradually become feathery plumes that, having become so interested in the artistry of seed pods and fliers, we do not realize our wild flowers have gone until one morning in late November we find them all covered with the fleecy blanket of the first snow.

In the following list, which is by no means complete, the letter c means that the plant is moderately common in this section of the city, s means the flower is scarce, and r that it is so rare that only a few plants have been found.

ALISMACEAE

Water plantain *Alisma Plantago-aquatica* s

ARACEAE

Jack-in-the-Pulpit *Arisaema triphyllum* c
Skunk cabbage *Symplocarpus foetidus* c

COMMELINACEAE

Day flower *Commelina communis* c

LILIACEAE

Asparagus *Asparagus officinalis* s
Day lily *Hemerocallis fulva* c
Bellwort *Oakesia sessilifolia* s
Catbrier *Smilax rotundifolia* s
Carrion flower *Smilax herbacea* c
False spikenard *Smilacina racemosa* c
Solomon's seal *Polygonatum biflorum* c
Canada May flower *Maianthemum canadense* c
Adder's tongue *Erythronium americanum* c
Star of Bethlehem *Ornithogalum umbellatum* c
Wild garlic *Allium canadense* c
Grape hyacinth *Muscaria botryoides* s

DIOSCOREACEAE

Wild yam *Dioscorea villosa* s

AMARYLLIDACEAE

Yellow star grass *Hypoxis hirsuta* c

IRIDACEAE

Blue-eyed grass *Sisyrinchium angustifolium* c

ORCHIDACEAE

Pink lady's slipper *Cypripedium acaule* r
Ladies' tresses *Spiranthes cernua* s
Slender ladies' tresses *Spiranthes gracilis* s

POLYGONACEAE

Swamp dock *Rumex verticillatus* c
Curled dock *Rumex crispus* c
Sheep sorrel *Rumex acetosella* c
Knotgrass *Polygonum aviculare* c

Lady's thumb	<i>Polygonum Persicaria</i> c
Tearthumb	<i>Polygonum sagittatum</i> c
Halbert-leaved tearthumb	<i>Polygonum arifolium</i> c
Virginia knotweed	<i>Polygonum virginianum</i> c
Climbing false buckwheat	<i>Polygonum scandens</i> c

CHENOPODIACEAE

Lamb's quarters	<i>Chenopodium album</i> c
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AMARANTHACEAE

Pigweed	<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> c
Tumbleweed	<i>Amaranthus graecizans</i> c

PORTULACACEAE

Spring beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i> c
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PHYTOLACCACEAE

Pokeweed	<i>Phytolacca decandra</i> c
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CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Deptford pink	<i>Dianthus armeria</i> c
Bouncing bet, single and double	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i> c
Starry campion	<i>Silene stellata</i> s
Bladder campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i> c
Night-flowering Catchfly	<i>Silene noctiflora</i> c
White campion	<i>Lychnis alba</i> c
Chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i> c

RANUNCULACEAE

Rue anemone	<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i> s
Early meadow rue	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i> s
Tall meadow rue	<i>Thalictrum polygamum</i> s
Small-flowered crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus abortivus</i> c
Early buttercup	<i>Ranunculus fascicularis</i> s
Bulbous buttercup	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> c
Tall buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i> c
White snakeroot	<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i> s

FUMARIACEAE

Dutchman's breeches	<i>Dicentra Cucullaria</i> c
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MENISPERMACEAE

Moonvine	<i>Menispermum canadense</i> r
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CRUCIFERAE

Spring cress	<i>Cardamine bulbosa</i> c
Bitter cress	<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> s
Toothwort	<i>Dentaria diphylla</i> s
Cut-leaved toothwort	<i>Dentaria laciniata</i> s

Black mustard	<i>Brassica nigra</i> c
Field mustard	<i>Brassica arvensis</i> c
Yellow rocket	<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i> c
Shepherd's purse	<i>Capsella Bursa-pastoris</i> c
Pepper grass	<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> c

CRASSULACEAE

Ditch stonecrop	<i>Penthorum sedoides</i> s
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HAMAMELIDACEAE

Witch hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> c
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ROSACEAE

Wineberry	<i>Rubus phoenicolasius</i> r
Blackberry	<i>Rubus villosus</i> c
Wild strawberry	<i>Fragaria virginiana</i> c
Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla canadensis</i> c
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia gryposepala</i> c
Swamp rose	<i>Rosa caroliniana</i> s
Smooth rose	<i>Rosa blanda</i> s
June berry or Shad bush	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> s

LEGUMINOSAE

Small-flowered sensitive pea	<i>Cassia nictitans</i> c
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i> c
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i> c
Alsike clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i> c
Hop clover	<i>Trifolium agrarium</i> c
Yellow melilot	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i> c
White melilot	<i>Melilotus alba</i> c
Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i> c
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i> c
Tick trefoil	<i>Desmodium canadense</i> c
Tick trefoil	<i>Desmodium paniculatum</i> c
Tick trefoil	<i>Desmodium canadense</i> c
Tick trefoil	<i>Desmodium rotundifolium</i> c
Bush clover	<i>Lespedeza violacea</i> c
Trailing bush clover	<i>Lespedeza procumbens</i> s
Blue vetch	<i>Vicia Cracca</i> c
Hog peanut	<i>Amphicarpa monoica</i> c
Wild bean	<i>Apios tuberosa</i> s
Trailing wild bean	<i>Strophostyles helvola</i> s

GERANIACEAE

Wild geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i> c
Siberian crane's bill	<i>Geranium sibiricum</i> s

OXALIDACEAE

Wood sorrel	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> c
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POLYGALACEAE

Milkwort *Polygala verticillata* s

ANACARDIACEAE

Staghorn sumach *Rhus typhina* c
 Smooth sumach *Rhus glabra* c
 Poison ivy *Rhus toxicodendron* c

CELASTRACEAE

Climbing bittersweet *Celastrus scandens* r

BALSAMINACEAE

Pale jewel weed *Impatiens pallida* c
 Spotted jewel weed *Impatiens biflora* c

VITACEAE

Virginia creeper *Pseodera quinquefolia* c
 River grape *Vitis vulpina* c
 Northern wild grape *Vitis labrusca* s

MALVACEAE

Low mallow, cheeses *Malva rotundifolia* c
 Velvet leaf *Abutilon Theophrasti* s

HYPERICACEAE

Common St. John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum* c
 Marsh St. John's-wort *Hypericum virginicum* s

VIOLACEAE

Common Blue violet *Viola papilionacea* c
 Palmate violet *Viola palmata* c
 Yellow violet *Viola pubescens* s

MELASTROMACEAE

Meadow beauty *Rhexia virginica* r

ONAGRACEAE

Evening primrose *Oenothera biennis* c
 Willow herb *Epilobium densum* s

ARALIACEAE

Spikenard *Aralia racemosa* r

UMBELLIFERAE

Early meadow parsnip *Zizia aurea* c
 Queen Ann's lace *Daucus Carota* c
 Sweet Cicely *Osmorrhiza Claytoni* c
 Water hemlock *Cicuta maculata* s
 Wild Parsley *Pastinaca sativa* s

CORNACEAE

Flowering dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i> c
Red osier	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i> s

ERICACEAE

Indian pipe	<i>Monotropa uniflora</i> r
High-bush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> s

PRIMULACEAE

Fringed loosestrife	<i>Steironema ciliatum</i> s
Four-leaved loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i> c
Yellow loosestrife	<i>Lysimachia terrestris</i> s

APOCYNACEAE

Spreading dogbane	<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i> c
Indian hemp	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> c
Dogbane	<i>Apocynum medium</i> s

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> c
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> c
Four-leaved milkweed	<i>Asclepias quadrifolia</i> s

LAURACEAE

Spice bush	<i>Lindera Benzoin</i> c
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CONVOLVULACEAE

Hedge bindweed	<i>Convolvulus sepium</i> c
Dodder	<i>Cuscuta Gronovii</i> c

VERBENACEAE

Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i> c
White vervain	<i>Verbena urticaefolia</i> c

LABIATAE

Ground ivy	<i>Nepeta Hederacea</i> c
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i> c
Skull cap	<i>Scutellaria lateriflora</i> s
Peppermint	<i>Mentha peperita</i> c
Wild mint	<i>Mentha arvensis</i> s
American pennyroyal	<i>Hedeoma pulegioides</i> s
Motherwort	<i>Leonurus Cardiaca</i> c
Hemp nettle	<i>Galeopsis Tetrahit</i> c
Self heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i> c
Water horehound	<i>Lycopus virginicus</i> s
Mountain mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> s

SOLANACEAE

Thorn apple	<i>Datura Stramonium</i> c
Purple thorn apple	<i>Datura Tatula</i> s
Ground cherry	<i>Physalis virginiana</i> s
Nightshade	<i>Solanum Dulcamara</i> c
Black nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> c

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Turtle head	<i>Chelone glabra</i> s
Slender gerardia	<i>Gerardia tenuifolia</i> c
Butter and eggs	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i> c
Monkey flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i> s
Beard tongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i> r
Beard tongue	<i>Penstemon laevigatus</i> r
Moth mullein	<i>Verbascum Blattaria</i> c
Great mullein	<i>Verbascum Thapsus</i> c
Common speedwell	<i>Veronica officinalis</i> c

OROBANCHACEAE

One-flowered cancer root	<i>Orobanche uniflora</i> s
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PLANTAGINACEAE

English plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> c
Common plantain	<i>Plantago major</i> c

RUBIACEAE

Small bedstraw	<i>Galium trifidum</i> s
Yellow bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i> c
Partridge berry	<i>Mitchella repens</i> r

CAPRIFOLIACEAE

Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i> c
Common elder	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> c
Horse gentian	<i>Triosteum perfoliatum</i> r
Maple-leaved viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i> c
Hobble bush	<i>Viburnum alnifolium</i> r
Black haw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> c

CAMPANULACEAE

Venus looking-glass	<i>Specularia perfoliata</i> c
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LOBELIACEAE

Indian tobacco	<i>Lobelia inflata</i> c
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COMPOSITAE

Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> c
Pearly everlasting	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i> c
Early everlasting	<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i> c

Burdock	<i>Arctium Lappa</i> s
Burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i> c
Heart-leaved aster	<i>Aster cordifolius</i> c
Wood aster	<i>Aster corymbosus</i> c
Broad-leaved aster	<i>Aster macrophyllus</i> s
New England aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i> s
Late purple aster	<i>Aster patens</i> c
Small white aster	<i>Aster vimineus</i> c
Heath aster	<i>Aster ericoides</i> c
Bur marigold	<i>Bidens cernua</i> s
Beggar's ticks	<i>Bidens frondosa</i> c
Oxeye daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum</i> c
Common thistle	<i>Cirsium lanceolatum</i> c
Yellow thistle	<i>Cirsium spinosissimum</i> s
Chicory	<i>Chicorium Intybus</i> s
Fleabane	<i>Erigeron canadensis</i> c
Daisy fleabane	<i>Erigeron annuus</i> c
Daisy fleabane	<i>Erigeron ramosus</i> c
Philadelphia fleabane	<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i> c
Robins plantain	<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i> s
Galinsoga	<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i> c
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> c
Joe Pye weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> c
White snakeroot	<i>Eupatorium urticaefolium</i> c
Devil's paintbrush	<i>Hieracium auranticum</i> c
Tawny hawkweed	<i>Hieracium canadense</i> c
King Devil	<i>Hieracium pratense</i> c
Wild lettuce	<i>Lactuca canadensis</i> c
Prickly lettuce	<i>Lactuca scariola</i> c
Fall dandelion	<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i> s
White lettuce	<i>Prenanthes alba</i> s
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> c
Silver-rod	<i>Solidago bicolor</i> c
Blue-stemmed golden-rod	<i>Solidago caesia</i> c
Canada golden-rod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i> c
Early golden-rod	<i>Solidago juncea</i> c
Grass-leaved golden-rod	<i>Solidago graminifolia</i> c
Rough-stemmed golden-rod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i> c
Late golden-rod	<i>Solidago serotina</i> c
Showy golden-rod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i> c
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinalis</i> c
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago Farfara</i> c
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> c
Clot bur	<i>Xanthium commune</i> c